BOARD OF REVIEW DECISION

Title of publication: Black Mass

Other known title(s): Not stated

OFLC ref: 1500557.000

Medium: Film

Distributor: Roadshow Entertainment (NZ) Ltd

Director: Scott Cooper

Producer: Scott Cooper
et al.

Country of origin: United States

Language: English

Applicant: Roadshow Entertainment (NZ) Ltd

Classification:	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 16 years.

Excisions: No excisions recommended

Descriptive note: Contains violence and offensive language.

Display conditions: None

Date of entry in Register: 06 October 2015

Date of direction to issue a label: 06 October 2015

Date of notice of decision: 06 October 2015

	Components	**Running time**
Feature(s):	Black Mass	122:28
Total running time:		122:28

Summary of reasons for decision:

The full decision will record that the film is a portrayal of the criminal career of James 'Whitey' Bulger, a notorious crime boss and FBI informant who rose to prominence in South Boston in the 70s and 80s. The film includes frequent, but realistic, use of

offensive language. It also includes realistic portrayals of some of the murders and violence that were features of Bulger's career. The film does not in any way condone or promote such behaviours, so it is not "objectionable" under s3(2) of the Act. However, the Board considers it should be age-restricted pursuant to 3B of the Act, since some of the scenes of murder and violence are unsuitable for audiences under the age of 16 years, who are unlikely to have the maturity to contextualise the violence as a realistic portrayal of historical events.